

**FY 2000 Subsistence Fisheries Project Narrative
Project #30**

Project Title: Site Surveys for Kuskokwim River Salmon Assessment Projects.

Investigator Organizations: ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division, Kenai Fisheries Resources Office, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

Geographic Area: Kuskokwim River

Information Type: Stock Status and Trends

Issue Addressed: Salmon runs originating from tributaries of the lower Kuskokwim River on Service lands and upriver tributaries above federal lands contribute to one of Alaska's largest and fastest growing subsistence fisheries. Managers have little escapement information for sockeye, chum, chinook and coho salmon on which to base subsistence, commercial and sportfishing management decisions to ensure the continued productivity of these populations.

Study Objective:

1. To determine site feasibility for establishing resistance board or a new design of fish weir in lower Kuskokwim River tributaries, including a deep water weir on the lower Kisaralik River.

Project Description: A crew of two will be transported by air or boat to several river systems to identify and survey potential sites for future installation of salmon run assessment projects (preferably floating weirs). Initial surveys will be made from the air. Once identified, a crew will be dropped off with a raft and equipment to document the physical characteristics of potential sites (width, depth profiles, flow speeds, substrates, etc.)

Candidate systems include, but are not limited to, the Aniak, Eek, Kisaralik, Kasiglok, Holukuk, Owhat, and Fog Rivers. Candidate systems in the middle Kuskokwim River, especially those with sockeye populations also need to be surveyed.

Consultation Completed/Potential for Capacity Building: Meetings have been held with AVCP, ADF&G, and USFWS concerning the need for additional weir projects in the Kuskokwim River drainage. Efforts will be made to contract with local organizations to help with site surveys and the construction and operation of weir projects.

Deliverables/Products: A prioritized listing of potential weir sites including detailed descriptions of locations and physical characteristics.

Costs:

Annual Budget Summary	USFWS	ADF&G	Total
FY 2000	\$ 5.0 K	\$ 22.0 K	\$27.0 K